

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MASERU 01933 071247Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 HA-05 /082 W
-----000101 080131Z /75

R 071050Z SEP 78
FM AMEMBASSY MASERU
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9217
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION UN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1933

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, LT (MOLAPO, MOOKI V.)
SUBJECT: CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION

REF: GENEVA 13371,

1. CHARGE SPOKE WITH MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY M.V. MOLAPO WHO CHAIRED THE CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND GOT HIS REACTION TO THE CONFERENCE RESULTS. MOLAPO EXPRESSED BITTERNESS AT THE WEO WALKOUT AND CONDEMNED THE U.S. FOR INCITING THIS ACTION. HE SAID THERE WAS NO QUESTION OF A ZIONISM-RACISM LINK BEING REITERATED AT THE CONFERENCE AND THAT THE WEO'S HAD WALKED OUT SIMPLY OVER THE "MENTION" OF ISRAEL. MOLAPO SAID THAT, QUITE APART FROM ZIONISM AS RACISM, ISRAEL IS IN FACT GUILTY OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. HE ALLEGED THAT JEWS OF ARAB ORIGIN, FOR INSTANCE, ARE TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS AND ARE FORBIDDEN TO OWN PROPERTY IN CERTAIN AREAS OF THE COUNTRY. MOLAPO DEPLORED WHAT HE REGARDED AS U.S. SLAVISH COMMITMENT TO DEFENDING ISRAEL FROM CONDEMNATION ON ANY GROUNDS IN INTERNATIONAL FORA.

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2. IN WHAT APPEARED TO BE AN ATTEMPT TO EMPHASIZE AFRICAN EVEN-HANDEDNESS, MOLAPO ALLEGED THAT THE AFRICANS AT THE CONFERENCE DENOUNCED THE ARABS FOR ALLEGEDLY PROVIDING DOLLARS 200 MILLION IN DEVELOPMENT CREDITS FOR MATANZIMA OF TRANSKEI. WHEN THE CHARGE EXPRESSED INCREDULITY ON THIS POINT, MOLAPO REPEATED THE ALLEGATION WITH VEHEMENCE AND VOICED HIS OWN CONDEMNATION OF THE ARABS FOR LENDING FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST BANTUSTAN

CREATION.

3. COMMENT: THE WEO WALKOUT WITH ITS CONSEQUENT UNDERMINING OF CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND THE POOR REFLECTIONS ON HIS CHAIRMANSHIP HAVE EMBITTERED MOLAPO. WE ATAINED OUR OBJECTIVE OF PREVENTING A REITERATION OF ZIONISM AS RACISM BUT IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT -- WHETHER JUSTIFIED OR NOT -- WE HAVE LOST THE SYMPATHY OF AN INFLUENTIAL GOL MINISTER.

3. APPRECIATE ASSESSMENT OF MOLAPO'S NON-PERFORMANCE PROVIDED REFTEL.
STOKES

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, MEETINGS, NON PARTICIPATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 sep 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MASERU01933
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780365-0436
Format: TEL
From: MASERU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780994/aaaaczmg.tel
Line Count: 74
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 62036956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 GENEVA 13371
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1520588
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONFERENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION
TAGS: SHUM, LT, WEO, (MOLAPO, MOOKI V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/62036956-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014